# CLAIMS

We claim:

1    1.    A method for providing procurement services to a

2    plurality of customer companies, comprising the steps of:

3          establishing a user profile for each person authorized

4          by a customer company to access said procurement

5          services;

6          associating each said company with a company group of

7          related companies;

8          said user profile specifying for each said user a user

9          company and company group;

10         providing for each procurement resource to be shared

11         among said users a resource profile specifying for each

12         resource those said companies to have access to said

13         procurement resource; and

14      responsive to said user profile and said resource

15      profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

16      resources.

1     2.    The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of

2   providing said procurement resources in a front-end catalog

3   and requisition server.

1     3.    The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

2      receiving a user request from a first client browser to

3      log in to said front-end server;

4      responsive to said request, providing a user interface

5      at said client browser only to procurement resources

6      authorized by said user profile and said resource

7      profiles.

1     4.    The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

2      receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized

3      by different company groups to enter a requisition to a

4    vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract

5    resource; and


6    generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with

7    respect to requisitions originating with users from

8    each said company group.


1    5.    The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:


2    leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company

3    groups with respect to the same volume specific

4    contract for goods or services.


1    6.    The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:


2    allowing said user to apply procurement charges to

3    charge centers only within his company group.


1    7.    The method of claim 3, said procurement resources

2    including a vendor catalog.

1    8.   The method of claim 3, said procurement resources

2    including a blanket order procurement contract for goods or

3    services.

1    9.   The method of claim 3, said procurement resources

2    including a user profile table.

1    10.   The method of claim 3, said procurement resources

2    including costs centers.

1    11.   The method of claim 3, said procurement resources

2    including accounting general ledger codes with company group

3    specific accounting rules and defaults.

1    12.   System for providing procurement services to a

2    plurality of customer companies, comprising:

3        a front end server;

4        a user profile for each person authorized by a customer

5        company to access said procurement services;

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6      each said company associated with a company group of

7      related companies;

8      said user profile specifying for each said user a user

9      company and company group;

10     a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among

11     said users;

12     a resource profile for each said procurement resource

13     specifying those said companies to have access to said

14     procurement resource; and

15     said user profile and said resource profiles for

16     controlling user access to said procurement resources.

1      13.  The system of claim 12, said procurement resources

2      further comprising:

3      vendor catalog;

4      a blanket order procurement contract for goods or

5      services; and

6        a table of user profiles.

1    14.  The system of claim 12, said procurement resources

2    further comprising:

3        costs centers; and

4        accounting general ledger codes with company group

5        specific accounting rules and defaults.

1    15.  A program storage device readable by a machine,

2    tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a

3    machine to perform method steps for providing procurement

4    services to a plurality of customer companies, said method

5    steps comprising:

6        establishing a user profile for each person authorized

7        by a customer company to access said procurement

8        services;

9        associating each said company with a company group of

10      related companies;

11   said user profile specifying for each said user a user

12   company and company group;

13   providing for each procurement resource to be shared

14   among said users a resource profile specifying for each

15   resource those said companies to have access to said

16   procurement resource; and

17   responsive to said user profile and said resource

18   profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

19   resources.

1  16. The program storage device of claim 15, said method

2 steps further comprising providing said procurement

3 resources in a front-end catalog and requisition server.

1  17. The program storage device of claim 16, said method

2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3   receiving a user request from a first client browser to

4   log in to said front-end server;

5   responsive to said request, providing a user interface

6        at said client browser only to procurement resources

7        authorized by said user profile and said resource

8        profiles.


1    18.  The program storage device of claim 16, said method

2    steps further comprising the steps of:


3        receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized

4        by different company groups to enter a requisition to a

5        vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract

6        resource; and


7        generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with

8        respect to requisitions originating with users from

9        each said company group.


1    19.  The program storage device of claim 18, said method

2    steps further comprising the steps of:


3        leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company

4        groups with respect to the same volume specific

5        contract for goods or services.

1 20. The program storage device of claim 16, said method

2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to

4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 21. The program storage device of claim 17, said

2 procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

1 22. The program storage device of claim 17, said

2 procurement resources including a blanket order procurement

3 contract for goods or services.

1 23. The program storage device of claim 17, said

2 procurement resources including a user profile table.

1 24. The program storage device of claim 17, said

2 procurement resources including costs centers.

1 25. The program storage device of claim 17, said

2  procurement resources including accounting general ledger

3  codes with company group specific accounting rules and

4  defaults.

1  26.  A computer program product or computer program element

2  for providing procurement services to a plurality of

3  customer companies according to method steps comprising:

4  establishing a user profile for each person authorized

5  by a customer company to access said procurement

6  services;

7  associating each said company with a company group of

8  related companies;

9  said user profile specifying for each said user a user

10  company and company group;

11  providing for each procurement resource to be shared

12  among said users a resource profile specifying for each

13  resource those said companies to have access to said

14  procurement resource; and

15  responsive to said user profile and said resource

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16        profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

17        resources.